

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 OMB-01 T-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12 RSR-01 /117 W

----- 069822

R 160648 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8364

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2197

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK, IN, BG

SUBJECT: SWISS VIEWS ON SUBCONTINENT

1. SUMMARY: SIWSS AMBASSADOR SEES NO CHANGE IN CURRENT DEADLOCK IN SUBCONTINENT, FOLLOWING HIS RECENT TRIP TO NEW DELHI. END SUMMARY

2. SWISS AMBASSADOR MALLET, BRIEFING CHARGE ON HIS FOUR DAY VISIT TO NEW DELHI WEEK AGO, SAID HE PERCEIVES NO BREAK IN CURRENT DEADLOCK AMONG PAKISTAN, INDIA AND BANGLADESH. GOI FONSEC KEWAL SINGH AND DEFSEC LALL BOTH TOLD MALLET THAT GOI WANTED FIRM PEACE AND QTE STRONG PAKISTAN UNQTE. ON RETURN OF PAKISTANI POWS, THEY HAD REAFFIRMED GOI'S COMMITMENT TO JOINT ACTION WITH GBD. THEY HAD, HOWEVER, AVOIDED SAYING THAT GOI WOULD RELEASE POWS IF DACCA AGREE. SINGH HAD SPOKEN OF OTHER LESSER STEPS TOWARD NORMALIZATION WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN PRIOR TO MOVEMENT ON POWS. MALLET SAID HE HAD TOLD THEM OF HIS IMPRESSION THAT GOP WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE BD ONCE THERE WAS SOME MOVEMENT ON POWS, WHICH BHUTTO APPARENTLY CONSIDERS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC OPINION IN

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PAKISTAN.

3. SWISS CHARGE IN DACCA, VISITING DELHI AT SAME TIME, HAD MENTIONED TO MALLET GENERAL IMPRESSION IN BANGLADESH THAT BENGALLEES WERE BEING BADLY MISTREATED IN PAKISTAN. MALLET SAID HE HAD RESPONDED THAT, TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, BENGALLEES WERE BEING PRETTY WELL TREATED IN PAKISTAN. THIS WAS HIS OWN IMPRESSION, AS SUPPORTED BY INFORMATION HE HAD FROM ICRC HERE.

4. MALLET TOLD CHARGE THAT THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN RESPONSE FROM GBD ON LIST OF SOME 12,000 BENGALLEES PROPOSED BY GOP FOR REPATRIATION. THUS, PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF UP TO 15,000 BENGALLEES IN PAKISTAN FOR SOME 6,000 PAKISTANI CIVILIAN DEPENDENTS HELD BY INDIA REMAINS IN ABEYANCE.

5. COMMENT: SWISS REMAIN PRETTY ACTIVE THROUGH THEIR OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION OF PAKISTANI AND INDIAN INTERESTS IN DELHI AND ISLAMABAD RESPECTIVELY. ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT OFFICIALLY LOOK AFTER PAKISTANI AND BANGLADESH INTERESTS IN RESPECTIVE CAPITALS, THEY ARE AVAILABLE AND HAVE BEEN ACTIVE AT VARIOUS TIMES IN QTE GOOD OFFICES UNQTE CONTEXT.  
SOBER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, BG, IN, PK  
**To:** DACCA  
EUR  
KARACHI  
LAHORE  
LONDON  
NEW DELHI  
SECSTATE WASHDC

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